March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

Chapter. 16

Image

...TH-

THAT BASTARD!

SFX: BOFUUN (POOF)

DAMN IT!

WHAT DO I DO NOW?!

DAMN.

ギュむ——っっっ

SFX: GYUMU (SQUEEZE)

LABEL: MATSUTAKAYA DEPARTMENT STORE

Despite my objections,

he marched right in.

Now, if you please...

Sorry we're late.

LET'S PUT THIS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CLOSET...

his luggage followed.

And in a flash,

THIS IS DINNER AND BREAKFAST FOR THE TWO OF YOU.

なわなわなわ

KIRIYAMA-SAMA, HARUNOBU-SAMA.

WELCOME BACK.

I couldn't get rid of him, so he forced his way in.

※

LAST CHAPTER CONT-INUED

HM.

SFX: AWAWAWAWAWAH

BUT THINK OF IT AS MY HOUSEWARM-ING GIFT TO YOU!☆

YOU DEFI-NITELY NEED TO TRY IT OUT!

IF YOU FOLD THIS BED, YOU CAN USE IT AS A SOFA! IT'S QUITE EXCEPT-IONAL.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY, SO I GOT A FEW THINGS ALONG THE WAY.

I'D NOTICED THAT KIRIYAMA'S HOME DIDN'T HAVE MANY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.

YOU SEE,

.....

SIGN: SHOGI HALL

将棋会館

SFX: HA (SIGH)

WHY ARE YOU SIGHING?

は〜

OH? YOU'RE NOT WITH NIKAIDOU TODAY?

ISSA-SAN.

SMITH-SAN.

DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE ENERGY TO DENY IT ANYMORE.

Friendship really is a wonderful thing!

Did you take those words to heart, Kiriyama-kyuun?

All those quote-worthy lines!

...OR SHOULD I SAY, *NIKAIDOU'S PASSIONATE EXPLANA-TIONS!*

OH RIGHT! I WATCHED YOUR MHK CUP MATCH...

Oh, this is bad. Just thinking about it tugs at my heart!

SFX: GUSU (SNIFFLE)

SFX: GU (GERK)

SFX: GU (CLENCH)

I HEARD AFTER-WARDS

THAT AFTER THE FILMING, NIKAIDOU COULDN'T EVEN STAND DUE TO ANEMIA.

SFX: ULU (SOB)

THAT NIGHT, EVERYONE WATCHED THE RECORDING TOGETHER.

THE DAY IT AIRED HAPPENED TO BE THE DAY OF MY TEACHER'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

If you really want to win, you must persist!

Don't only focus on attacking! You must defend well, too!

WHAT A GOOD KID!

WH-

SHIT, I THINK I'M CRYING.

Eh...? What is this... water... from my eyes?

Ah, I can't. I must be getting old... Lately I tear up... so easily...

SFX: GOO (CRY)

AH, SERIOUSLY! EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE ADULTS GATHERED THERE

COULD NOT HELP BUT CRY.

NIKAIDOU, YOU'RE SO...

Everybody loves Nikaidou

NIKAI-DOU?

EH?

TRYING VERY HARD.

HE WAS

IT SEEMED LIKE HE HAD USED UP ALL OF HIS ENERGY.

NIKAIDOU HAS WON ALL SIX MATCHES.

HE'S REALLY FOCUSED.

IT'S LIKELY HE'LL GET A HIGHER RANK THIS SEASON.

HIS HEAD IS PROBABLY FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF FACING YOU IN C1.

SFX: WASSHA WASSHA (RUB RUB)

SO HARD...

SO HARD, YOU KNOW...

Do you know!? Seriously!!!

I always feel like his thoughts never fully reach your heart! It's so frustrating!!!

Ahhh seriously!?

SFX: HAA (SIGH)

I'll gradually slip off the edge,

and hit the demotion point.

If I don't hold my ground,

Three wins and three losses.

DON'T LET NIKAIDOU DOWN.

COME ON, KIRIYAMA.

soaking that feeling deep into my body...

the long and painful tug-of-war I watched my foster father suffer after his fall from the Bt group,

...That was

Once a professional hits the demotion point, his record cannot be erased until his wins surpass his losses next season. If he falls to the demotion point twice, he drops to a lower level.

The fight to erase failure is even more intense and exhausting than the fight to move ahead.

I feel lousy inside when I'm around him.

Is it because he never doubts himself?

Always persisting, always moving forward and forward, that passion...

Just where does Nikaidou get his energy from?

His body isn't strong in any way.

CHERISH YOUR OWN SHOGI MORE, WILL YOU?

CHERISH IT MORE!

It's making me hate myself

more and more...

MOMO-CHAN, NO!

THE CAT IS IN PAIN!!

LOOKS LIKE HINA AND MOMO HAD FUN.

DRAWN VERY WELL...

AT ANY RATE, IT'S REALLY...

I'm gonna get you with a meatball punch nya!

SFX: SHAA (SLASH)

SFX: GI-NYAA(STRETCH-NYAA)

SFX: SURUSURU SURUSURU (PURRR PURRR)

HE MUST BE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO PLAY SHOGI WITH HIS GRAND-DAUGHTERS.

...I MEAN,

AAH, HOW NICE—

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU FIND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYERS TO PERSONALLY TEACH YOU?

Aah, what if they become incredibly strong?

AAH, I REFUSE TO LOSE.

Stupid Jiji ☆

LOOKING AT IT, OJII-CHAN IS LIKE.

—Speaking of which, I wish they would teach me too. Really... how nice~

WE PUT COPIES OF THE PICTURE BOOK ON THE FRIDGE SO THEY COULD REMEMBER WHAT THEY LEARNED.

SFX: BU BU... (MUTTER MUTTER...)

SFX: BORO BORO... (PURR PURR...)

ON TOP OF THAT.

EVEN NOW...

YOU CAN ENJOY THE GAME AT HOME.

THE BOARD AND PIECES HAVE EXISTED SINCE HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO.

IF YOU LOOK AT IT THIS WAY,

SHOGI IS REALLY INCREDIBLE.

Akari-san's words...

brought up the image of my Father

IT REALLY IS AN INCREDIBLE GAME.

AND THAT WILL REMAIN TRUE FOR ONE'S LIFETIME!

ONCE YOU LEARN HOW TO PLAY, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE AN ADULT OR A CHILD.

EVERYONE CAN EARNESTLY HAVE FUN.

Ah! The kitty transformed!

Father's habits that naturally emerge in my dreams...

His body would rock back and forth gently, left hand cupping his cheek, with his arms crossed.

I desperately tried my hardest because I wanted to see that expression of his.

I liked to see Father like that.

Studying furiously... the brain spinning round and round... I would only get to see that expression when I played at my absolute best.

Father...

If he saw the me right now, what would he say?

Oh yeah.

Never hiding his true face...

The father who was kind, always being considerate of others around him, always with a smile...

Why...

did I forget...

Am I not...

currently standing in...

the shogi world that Father yearned for...?

How...

SFX: POOH... (SIGH...) AAA (SLIDE)

Such an important thing...

How could I forget about this?

.....

KYOKO-SAN.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,

REI.

Chapter 16 end